

**David Millar**  
**Circulating Nurse/Runner'**

"I was the runner on that day. It was an extra list. I was running about like crazy. Dr Northcote the anaesthetist seemed to be in a bit of a mood because the morning had over-ran and he was pacing about.

I still don't know how they managed to take out the wrong kidney. The checklist should have prevented this, and they should have waited to get the CT scans. I'm always on at them to do the checklist properly. Do you know what I found last week? One of the operating department practitioners had a stack of checklist completion forms and was ticking all the boxes so they could just put a patient sticker on them. Unbelievable. They said it was to save time.

And they had a near miss about a month ago in orthopaedics as well. They nearly operated on the wrong knee. The medical director put out a strongly worded memo after that about everyone needing to do the checklist properly. It doesn't seem to have made much difference.

I was away getting something when they did the time out. I think it was the LigaSure I was getting. If I'd been there, I would probably have noticed the mistake. And Mr Black should have noticed – but he was late and rushing around. He'll not be so busy after this gets into the papers. I probably shouldn't say that..."

Notes:

- A **circulating nurse** or **runner** works outside the sterile field, maintaining overall operating room safety and efficiency. The circulating nurse overseeing the broader operating room environment and ensuring all necessary resources and personnel are available and properly utilised.
- In the context of surgery, a **list** refers to the scheduled plan of surgical procedures to be performed within a specific timeframe, usually over the course of a day or a session (morning or afternoon) in an operating theatre.
- A **CT** scan, or computed tomography scan, is a medical imaging technique used to create detailed cross-sectional images of the body's internal structures.
- An **Operating Department Practitioner (ODP)** provides care and support to patients before, during, and after surgery.
- **LigaSure™** is an advanced surgical instrument that employs a combination of pressure and energy to fuse vessels, tissue bundles, and lymphatics, effectively sealing them to prevent bleeding.